

Carmel Christy K J

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Education:

- 2013: University of Hyderabad, India
PhD Communication
- 2001: University of Kerala, India
MA Communication
- 1999: Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India
BA Communicative English

Academic Posts:

- 2008-present: Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi
Assistant Professor (senior), Department of Journalism (on leave from April 2023)
- 2023-2026 The Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut
[Postdoctoral](#) Research Associate
- 2021 Urban Studies Foundation, Glasgow & International Institute for Asian Studies,
Leiden, The Netherlands
[International](#) Research Fellow
- 2021-2024 [Transnationalism, Solidarity and Social Justice](#), Bard College, Berlin-Open Society
University Network
Participating Faculty
- 2019 Le Collège d'études mondiales-Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme
(CEM-FMSH), Paris
[Postdoctoral](#) Fellow
- 2018-2019 International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden
[Research](#) Fellow
- 2015-2016 University of California, Santa Cruz
[Fulbright-Nehru](#) Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2006-2008 Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi
CSDS-ICSSR Doctoral Fellow
- 2006-2007 SARAI-CSDS, New Delhi
Independent Research Fellow

Other Work Experience

- 2004-2006 Journalist, *The New Indian Express*, Hyderabad

Publications

Book

- 2017 [Sexuality and Public Space in India](#): Reading the Visible, Routledge, Gender in Asia Series, 2017.

Articles:

- 2024 [Women Protestors from the Islands in Kochi](#): Environmental Justice in South Asia. *City: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory and Action*, Vol 28, No 1-2, 280-292.
- 2022 [Making Way for Ships](#): Displacement, Religion and Urban Space-making in India's Southwest Littoral. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, Vol 45, No 5, 887-905.
- 2021 [The City and the Sex Worker](#): Reading Caste and Gender in Life Writings. *Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme-WP-2021-148*.
- 2020 [Research after COVID-19](#): The Crises of the Body and the Mind. *Indian Academy of Sciences*.
- 2018 [Why Indian Universities are Spaces where Savarnas get Affection and Dalitbahujans Experience Distance](#). *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol. 53, Issue No: 5.
- 2017 Universities as Sites of Disaffection. [Seminar](#). pp. 83-84.
- 2016 [Narrating City](#): Tales from the Mainland, Islands and Backwaters. *Creative Forum: Journal of Creative and Literary Writings*. Vol. 29, No. 1-2. pp 34-42.
- 2012 The Woman Sexual Subject: Contingencies and Contestations. [Akademos](#). Vol-VII, pp. 48-59.
- 2007 [Burning of an auto rickshaw](#): Caste, Class and Gender in Keralam. *Working Questions: Five Years of the Sarai-CSDS Independent Fellowship Programme Book*, pp 71-72.

Book Chapters:

- 2025 "City as a Continuum: Cinematic Geography of Kochi in Malayalam Cinema," P Thirumal and Nuaiman, Eds, *Inhabiting Technologies/Modernities: Media and Cultural Practices in South Asia*, Orient BlackSwan, Hyderabad, pp 251-272.
- 2019 "Janu and Saleena Narrating Life: Subjects and Spaces" Judith Misrahi Barak, K. Satyanarayana and Nicole Thiara, Eds, [Dalit Text: Politics and Aesthetics Reimagined](#), New Delhi & London; Routledge, pp 105-120.
- 2015 "The Politics of Sexuality and Caste: Looking through Kerala's Public Space" Sathese Chandra Bose and Shiju Sam Varughese, Eds, [Kerala Modernity: Ideas, Practices and Processes in Transition](#), Hyderabad; Orient BlackSwan, pp 126-145.
- 2007 "Newsroom as a space of struggle" Sukhvinder Kaur, Ed, *Women Balancing Home and Profession: Perspectives and Experiences*, ICAFI, pp.129-136.

Edited Works:

- 2022 *Interdisciplinary Research Initiatives: Analyses, Innovations and Reflections* (A volume of undergraduate research articles, co-edited with Dr. Geetesh Nirban). Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi.
- 2019& 2020 Edited two volumes of [Akademos](#) as Chief Editor, academic journal of Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi.

Under Peer Review:

- 2025 “Technologies of Culture: Cinematic Infrastructure and Caste in Kochi,” special issue “Concealed Infrastructures” in the journal *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.
- “Caste Sensorium of Campuses: Lineage of Caste and Gender in Indian Classrooms,” in *Meridians: Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*.

In Progress:

Fading shores, forging life: Caste, gender and ecology in a South Indian Port City
(Book manuscript)

Public Scholarship:

- 2025 Book discussant, [Talking Texts](#), iSHORE, March 07.
- 2023 Podcast: [Cities for the Many not the Few](#), in *The Sociological Review*.
- 2022 Article: [Protests Reshaping Cities: Islanders Defending the Shores in Kochi](#), Urban Studies Foundation, Glasgow.
- 2021 [Sensory Life of Caste in Indian Universities](#), along with Prof P Thirumal, *Economic and Political Weekly* Engage Podcast series.
- 2020 Articles: [Dalitbahujan Sthreekalum Pouratvavum](#) (in Malayalam, English translation: Dalitbahujan Women and Citizenship), in *Sanghaditha*, a woman’s magazine.
- [Kaattu Polum Veeshaan Paadillaatha Chithralekhyude Bhoomikakal](#) (in Malayalam, English translation: Spaces of Chithralekha where even the wind doesn’t blow), on utharakalam.com
- [Chithralekha: An Icon of Resistance](#), on [roundtableindia.co.in](#)
- 2019 [Sabarimala Temple](#): How the Indian Media Fell into the Trap of Caste and Gender Stereotypes, in *The Conversation*.
- 2018 [The Dalit Question Is One That the Government Wants to Tame](#) Under Draconian Laws. In *The Wire*.

- 2008 “Where some auto rickshaws run, others burn”, co-authored with Jenny Rowena, *Insight: Young Voices.*, Vol 1, No 1, pp 22-26.
- 2005 “A Crusader Against Gender Discrimination”, *The New Indian Express*, Hyderabad.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2022 Knowledge Mobilization Award
Urban Studies Foundation, Glasgow
- 2021 International Fellowship
Urban Studies Foundation, Glasgow
- 2018- Research Fellowship, IIAS, Leiden
2019 Postdoctoral Fellowship, CEM-FMSH, Paris
- 2017 Charles Wallace Trust Short-term Grant
- 2015- Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellowship
2016
- 2006- ICSSR-CSDS Doctoral Fellowship
2008
- 2006- SARAI-CSDS Independent Fellowship
2007
- 2011& International Travel Grants from University Grants Commission, New Delhi
2014

Invited Lectures

- 2025 *Decolonizing education through the lens of caste in South Asia*, The Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut, March 11.
- [Water belongings](#) in the struggle for environmental justice*, The Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute & The School of Social and Critical Enquiry, University of Connecticut, February 25.
- 2024 *Multispecies belonging in the struggles for environmental justice: Notes from a South Asian port city*, The Annual Huth Lecture, University of Dayton, October 14.
- [Caste Sensorium](#) of Campuses: Embodied Experiences Searching for Words*, Eggers Hall, Syracuse University, March 26.
- 2023 *Caste and Human Rights*, 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights seminar, Human Rights Law Association, University of Connecticut Law School, November 16.
- Dalits and Digital Media*, invited lecture as part of the course “Human Rights and Digital Media,” The Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, September 25.
- Understanding Decoloniality in South Asian Women Studies*, workshop on South

- Asian Studies, Allen Islands, Colby College, Maine, July 25-28.
- 2022 *Resistance as Knowledge: Women Speaking Multiple Tongues*, as part of the course 'Intellectual History in South Asia: Women Thinking the World', Ambedkar University, New Delhi, April 07.
- 2021 *Mediated Geographies: Spaces in/ of Cinema*, Department of Geography, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, October 22.
Kochi's Changing Shores: Displacement, Religion and Urbanity in India, Urban Knowledge Network Asia Speakers' Series, IIAS, Leiden, April 22.
Life Writing in Women's Studies: Framing Questions and Debates, International Webinar, Department of Sociology and the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Kerala, March 10.
- 2020 *Cities as a Continuum: An Embodied Cinematic Geography of Kochi*, Kerala Council for Historical Research, October 22.
Politics of Gender and Caste in Media, Department of English, Union Christian College, Aluva on September 18.
Janu and Saleena Narrating Life: Subjects and Spaces, Baselios Poulouse Catholic College, Piravom, Kerala, February 20.
- 2019 *Decasteing Gender: Challenges to Knowing the Intimate Self*, "Empires, Sexualities Programme", University of Paris, Diderot, Paris, November 13.
Of Ships and Spectres: Religion and Urban Space-making in Cochin, GIS Asie, EHESS, Paris, November 12.
Displacement, Religion and Urban Space-making in India's Southwest Littoral, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, September 17.
Caste in Contemporary India, Lecture as part of the course 'Pluralism in India', Department of History, University of Groningen, May 10.
- 2018 *The Life of Caste, Gender and the Body: Boundaries of Knowing*, at the Indian Institute of Advances Studies, Shimla, India, June 6.
- 2017 Book discussion *Contested Knowledge: Science, Media and Democracy in Kerala*, at the School of Arts and Aesthetics auditorium, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, August 19.
Neology as a Site of Sexuality: Constituting the Visible, at the Centre for the School of Social Sciences Committee Room, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, March 23.
Media Affects: Tracing Methodological Possibilities in Media Studies at the Centre for Media Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, March 17.
- 2016 *Towards a Dalit Aesthetics*, at Barrows Hall, Barbara Christian Conference Room, University of California Berkeley, The United States of America, June 24.
Reading the Visible: Politics of Caste and Sexuality in the Public Space in South Asia Colloquium, University of California, Santa Cruz, May 19.
Narrating Life: Understanding Subjects through Spaces at MOTT Community College, Flint, Michigan, The United States of America, February 18.
- 2013 *The Politics of Sexuality and Caste: Debating Suryanelli Case* in the Department of Cultural Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University, July 26.

The Sites of Sexuality and the Public Space in Kerala: Looking through Media and Legal Discourse at Central European University, Budapest, November 29.

Selected Conference Presentations

- 2024 *Spaces of Caste and Christianity: Protests and Churches in Kerala*, Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 29-November 02.
- Water-world belongings and the protest for environmental justice in South Asia*, International Convention for Asia Scholars, Surabaya, Indonesia, July 28-August 01.
- Women Protestors from the Islands in Kochi: Environmental Justice in South Asia*, “Law and Society Association Annual Meeting,” Denver, June 06-09.
- 2023 *Women Protestors from the Islands in Kochi: Environmental Justice in South Asia*, “Law, Caste and the Pursuit of Justice: The 06th International Conference on the Unfinished Legacy of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar,” The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, October 20-22, 2023.
- The Space of Higher Education: Restructuring Gendered Institutions*, “Beyond Access and Parity: Complicating the Narrative of Gender Equality in Higher Education in India”, Department of Women and Gender Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, February 23-25.
- 2021 *The City and the Cinema: An Embodied Cinematic Geography of Kochi*, The International Convention of Asia Scholars, August 24-28, Kyoto.
- 2020 *Research Methods in Humanities*, Workshop organized by the Minority Welfare Department, Kerala on August 10.
- Caste Bodies, Bodiless Discourse: Caste as an Intimate Companion of Gender*, in the one-day seminar *Bodily Habitations: Cinema, Affect and Caste*, S.N.School, University of Hyderabad, March 12.
- 2019 *Indriappam and Vindaloo: Caste and Food Culture among Kerala “Christians”*, at the international workshop ‘Exploring Sovereignty and Charisma: Engagements, Contestations and Fabulations from the Global South’, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, India, December 16-18.
- Making Ships in the ‘haunted land’: Urban Space-making in Cochin*, in the workshop ‘Making of the Southwest Indian Littoral: Trade, Religion and Marginality’, at Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’homme, Paris, October 25.
- Making Way for Ships: Negotiating Religion and Development on the Shore*, at the 11th International Convention for Asia Scholars, Leiden, Netherlands, July 16-19.
- Studying Caste: Constraints in Contemporary India*, at the 11th International Convention for Asia Scholars, Leiden, Netherlands, July 16-19.
- Studying Caste and Gender: Limitations of Western Anthropology*, at ‘Decolonising Anthropology’, European Association of Social Anthropology, University of Leiden, The Netherlands, June 28.
- 2016 *Narrating Dalit women lives: Understanding subjects through spaces*, at American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, San Francisco, the United States of America, March 29.

- Media Spectacles: The Limits of Political Imagination*, at Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California Berkeley, The United States of America, March 11.
- 2015 *Narrating City: Tales from the 'Mainland', Backwaters and Islands*, at India International Centre, organized by the Department of English, Kamala Nehru College (DU), February 5-6.
- 2011 *Reading Language Debates of the 1990s: Sexuality and Configuration of the Public Space*, Researchers at Work, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, September 20-23.
Mediating/ Constituting Sexuality and Caste, 'Caste, democratic politics and Nation Building: Historical and Contemporary India', School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Studies, IGNOU, March 10 - 11.
- 2010 *Sex work, Domesticity and Caste: Sexuality Debates in the Public Space*, 'Reorienting Caste and Gender Studies: Revisiting Knowledge, Institutions and Practices', Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Women's Studies Centre, University of Pune, November 23-24.
Mediating/ Constituting Sexualities; An Analysis of Media Culture and Legal Discourse, 'Siting Law', Second Conference of the Law and Social Sciences Research Network (LASSnet), Pune, December 27-30.
- 2009 *Autobiography of a Sex Worker: Sexuality Debates in the Public Space*, 'Renegotiating Intimacies: Marriage, Sexualities, Living Practices (II)', School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, December 22-23.
- 2008 *Women and Space: An Analysis of a Sex Worker's Autobiography*, CSDS PhD Scholars Workshop, New Delhi, September 22-23.
 Re-defining Sexualities, Relocating Feminist Discourse; Towards a Critical Approach to Feminist Knowledge Production, at the XII National Conference of Indian Association for Women's Studies in Lucknow, February 7-10.
- 2007 *Chithralekha's Burning Autorickshaw; Caste and Gender in the Urban Space of Keralam*, at SARAI-CSDS Independent Fellows Workshop along with co-researcher in New Delhi, December 4-7.
Sexuality, Gender and Caste: Reflections on a Sex Worker's Autobiography, presented in the national seminar titled "Cultural Practices and Discourses of the Minor" held at the Department of Art History and Aesthetics, Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, February 5-7.